

work ethics, tenacity, and love of Alaska by a Pioneer of Alaska Aviation. Today, I stand in recognition and honor Mr. Cliff Everts.

Mr. Everts was an instructor for the predecessor of Alaska Airlines, Alaska Star Airlines. In 1945 he joined the team of Wien Alaska flying Boeing 247s and Lockheed Lodestars hauling fuel from Barrow to Umiat and after 15 years saw an opportunity to begin his first business experience. When Wien's business plan dropped fuel delivery, he purchased one of the C-46s and continued delivering fuel to Alaska's villages. Wien was lucky to keep Mr. Everts as one of their team until 1980 when he retired after 35 years and 30,000 hours in a cockpit.

Mr. Everts has flown at forty below temperatures, through dark days and nights, in snow, sleet, and rain, to supply the needs of village residents. He is a true Alaskan with a frontier spirit.

One of the most interesting adventures of Cliff was delivering 110 reindeer from Nome to Colorado so that people in the "lower forty-eight" could experience a Santa Clause sleigh ride. Somewhere today there are decedents of one of the escapees there in Colorado along with our Alaskan wolves!

Cliff also gave new meaning to "when pigs fly" when he delivered several dozen pigs in a C-46 from Ohio to Big Delta for a farm project.

As a committed Alaskan, he realized early the opportunity in our State and the value of our resources, our people, and our commodities. He purchased surplus equipment and resold or rented it. His renowned collection of planes with historical nose art, which are still flying today, is an example in recycling and honorable use of assets, when others may have disregarded them for lack of value.

Cliff has contributed to Alaska with the creation of more than one successful company; the leadership today exemplifies his integrity, values, commitment to community and family, and love for our State and Country. Cliff and his planes have provided fuel to villages and mines, while not only improving quality of life, but often saving life. Our State would be less today without you and Pioneers like him.

I rise today to congratulate Mr. Cliff Everts on this day as we place a plaque and memory in perpetuity on the East Ramp of the Fairbanks International Airport.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
CENTER POINT

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Center Point and Dr. Sushma Taylor who serves as President and CEO. Center Point was founded in 1971 as a private, not-for-profit corporation which offers rehabilitation and a spectrum of health and social services to high risk families, men, women, women with dependent children and youth. Since its founding, Center Point has served over 450,000 men, women, families and veterans.

Center Point's mission is to provide comprehensive social, educational, vocational, medical, psychological, housing and rehabilita-

tion services to combat social problems including substance abuse, poverty and unemployment. Center Point provides rehabilitation and treatment services to interrupt abusive cycles of psychological, social and economic dislocation by providing critical training and support so that individuals can claim self-worth and dignity through accountability and self-responsibility.

Center Point's leader, Dr. Taylor, first joined Center Point as its Executive Director in 1981. Dr. Taylor has sought to create opportunities and help individuals and families overcome the barriers of drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness, criminal justice involvement, unemployment, poor health and mental health problems to make a positive contribution to society. Under Dr. Taylor's leadership, Center Point has grown to develop and provide a wide array of services to those in need in California, Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana.

Oklahoma's female incarceration rate ranks number one in the Nation and in my district Center Point is making a difference with the Tulsa Women's Program. The burgeoning program helps women transition away from the criminal justice system and back into society. Center Point, the Tulsa Women's Program and the passionate leadership of Dr. Taylor provide countless inspiring examples of how treatment and rehabilitation can work to restore dignity to an individual and help people take responsibility for their own lives.

I am grateful for the contributions of Center Point and Dr. Taylor as we commemorate their 40th anniversary and their positive and lasting contributions to society.

A TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPAL DALE  
BARNHILL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa's excellence in education, and to specifically congratulate Norwalk High School Principal Dale Barnhill of Norwalk, Iowa, for being named Iowa High School Principal of the year by the School Administrators of Iowa.

Dale Barnhill's vision for becoming a teacher began to take form after graduating from Twin Cedars High School in Bussey, Iowa. Dale would then graduate from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in history and then from Northeast Missouri State University with a master's degree in guidance and counseling. After earning his administrative certification from Iowa State, Dale began his career in Iowa as a teacher and a coach at Ringsted Community School. Dale would go on to attain his first administrative position in Winthrop, Iowa, and later serve as the Assistant Principal at Pella High School in Pella, Iowa. Mr. Barnhill's entire career in education has been in Iowa and our state has benefited greatly from it.

Since Dale joined Norwalk Schools in 1998, the high school has enjoyed more than a decade of positive growth. Mr. Barnhill's work with improving the high school and its students has directly led to the increased quality of Norwalk's programs. Additionally, Dale took Norwalk High School into the 21st century by im-

plementing electronic portfolios for students to facilitate exit interviews for graduating seniors and an improved method for calculating class rank. Mr. Barnhill has not been shy about pushing students to challenge themselves academically, and the result has been demonstrably effective for both students and the school itself.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great honor to represent Norwalk High School Principal Dale Barnhill, the teachers, students, school board members and administrators of the Norwalk Community School District in the United States Congress. I wish Mr. Barnhill and all of Norwalk High School continued academic excellence as they continue to have a positive impact on the future leaders of our state and country.

CELEBRATING THE END OF DON'T  
ASK, DON'T TELL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the end of the discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, and to celebrate that qualified men and women who have the desire to serve their country can no longer be denied simply because of sexual orientation.

Don't Ask, Don't Tell limited the ability of our armed forces to recruit and retain talented Americans. Hundreds of men and women with critical abilities, including language skills, have been discharged under this policy.

Meanwhile, many of our closest allies have demonstrated that allowing open service does not harm unit cohesion or military performance.

Most importantly, Don't Ask, Don't Tell institutionalized discrimination in our military. It was a policy that forced men and women to lie about their identity in order to serve their country.

As of this week, no one is prohibited from serving the country they love because of whom they love.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOYS & GIRLS  
CLUBS OF LAS VEGAS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas opened their first club in 1961 in a casino basement in North Las Vegas and today serves over 14,000 children in eight dedicated facilities throughout Clark County.

Their mission is to enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Several of the Clubs are placed to serve the neighborhoods, where children are most at-risk for educational and financial failure, drug and alcohol abuse, gang involvement, and teen pregnancy.